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ABSTRACT

Arguing that the subject of literacy is immense and complex, this book contends that literacy is a subject with continuities and contradictions at its very core and that literacy can be understood only in its historical and societal contexts. Since the book is a critical, selective synthesis of a vast amount of research, the notes appended are mostly illustrative. Chapter titles include: (1) "The Origins of Western Literacy"; (2) "The Light of Literacy in the 'Dark Ages'"; (3) "New Lights of Literacy and Learning: From the Tenth-Eleventh to the Thirteenth Centuries"; (4) Ends and Beginnings: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries"; (5) "Print, Protest, and the People"; (6) "Toward Enlightenment/Toward Modernity: 1660-1780"; (7) "The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Our Times"; and (8) "Epilogue: Today and Tomorrow: Revisioning Literacy." (RS)

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